

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims:**

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claims 13-17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 7-12 and 18 have been amended and new claim 20 has been added. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-12, 18 and 20 would be pending.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-15 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapp et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,192, hereinafter “Clapp”) in view of Shibata et al. (JP 07-254960, herein after “Shibata”). Claims 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapp in view of Shibata as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Chivers (U.S. Patent No. 4,376,973, hereinafter “Chivers”).

Claims 5-6 and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clapp in view of Shibata as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Kato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,898,824, hereinafter “Kato”).

Independent claims 1, 7 and 18 are directed to an arrangement involving at least (i) checking whether a task is being processed for communicating with the other terminal device, and (ii) inhibiting change from the second operation mode to the first operation mode while the task is being processed.

In contrast, in the newly cited Shibtata reference, in spite of whether or not communication is on, in the case where the communication mode is set by the mode change key of the operation portion 9, changing of mode from PC12 is inhibited. Further, in Shibata, in the

case where the communication mode is set by the command from PC12, change of mode from PC12 is not inhibited. Accordingly, Shibata does not disclose or suggested the above-noted claimed features.

The remaining references as relied upon by the Examiner do not appear to remedy these deficiencies in the Shibata teachings.

Accordingly, claims 1, 7 and 18 (as well as new claim 20) and their dependent claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in combination.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4681.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4681.

Respectfully submitted,
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